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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/561,325	12/20/2005	Richard Colin Fitzgerald	356952.00040-US	5691
78905 7590 06/24/2009 Saul Ewing LLP (Philadelphia) Attn: Patent Docket Clerk 2 North Second St. Harrisburg, PA 17101				
EXAMINER				
LEIBOVICH, YAIR				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2114				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/561,325

Applicant(s)

FITZGERALD, RICHARD COLIN

Examiner

YAIR LEIBOVICH

Art Unit

2114

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/15/2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-2, 4-9, 11-13, 15-20, and 22-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3, 10, 14 and 21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 7/9/2008 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
2. It is suggested that in addition to overcoming the prior art, Applicant amend independent claims to include a "thereby... to what effect" that would clarify the advantage of using RAM drive to complete the boot.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 3, 10, 14, and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: it recites in lines 2-3 non-volatile memory drive, but then, later on in the claim refers to non volatile memory; it is suggested that the word drive be added. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1, 4-5, 11-12, 15-16, and 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brundridge (US 6,279,109 B1) in view of VanRooven (US 6,591,376 B1).

For claim 1.

- Brundridge teaches a portable computing device (Dell makes laptops which this invention pertains to) controlled by an operating system (see abstract line 5), in which, during boot (see title), if the operating system is loaded intact (see abstract lines 2-4: load and run from CDROM means loaded successfully, plus no errors discussed...) but an internal non-volatile read/write memory drive that is used to boot the device to a functional GUI (see title) is found to be ...unavailable (instead of "corrupt", as claimed...see title), then the non-volatile read/write memory is automatically swapped with a temporary volatile RAM drive to enable the operating system to complete the boot (see abstract lines 11-22).
- Brundridge does not explicitly teach "...is found to be corrupted", although corruptness can cause unavailability, or appear to be not installed.
- However, VanRooven teaches "...is found to be corrupted" (see column 3 lines 8-12)
- It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Brundridge to include "...is found to be corrupted", as taught by VanRooven, because both Brundridge and VanRooven teach use of RAM disk drives during boot therefore they are analogous arts; and because corruptness causes unavailability and when one drive is corrupt, an other must be use to sustain functionality (see column 3 lines 8-12).

For claim 4,

- The combination of Brundridge and VanRooven teaches the limitations of claim 1 for the reasons above.
- Brundridge further teaches default configuration files automatically copied to volatile RAM drive (see figure 1 block 120 is volatile and 160 is not).

For claim 5,

- The combination of Brundridge and VanRooven teaches the limitations of claim 1 for the reasons above.
- Brundridge further teaches corrupt drive is automatically moved to a different drive letter to allow subsequent reformatting (see figure 3 block 324 and column 3 line 12).

For claim 11,

- The combination of Brundridge and VanRooven teaches the limitations of claim 1 for the reasons above.
- Brundridge further teaches the internal non-volatile read/write memory drive is found to be corrupted if any of the following apply: (a) existing data cannot be read; (b) new data cannot be written; (c) user data is corrupt but metadata is not corrupt; (d) user data is not corrupt but metadata is corrupt; (e) it is in a read-only state (see title: many occur if uninstalled/not available).

For Claim 12,

- The claim recites essentially similar limitations as claim 1, except that it is a method.

Art Unit: 2114

For Claims 15-16,

- The combination of Brundridge and VanRooven teaches the limitations of claim 12 for the reasons above.
- The claims recite essentially similar limitations as in claims 4-5 respectively, except that they are a method.

For Claim 22,

- The combination of Brundridge and VanRooven teaches the limitations of claim 12 for the reasons above.
- The claims recite essentially similar limitations as in claim 11, except that it is a method.

For claim 23,

- The claim recites essentially similar limitations as in claim 1 except for “computer program product” and “computer readable storage medium” and “first program instructions stored on said medium”

For claim 24,

- The combination of Brundridge and VanRooven teaches the limitations of claim 1 for the reasons above.
- Brundridge further teaches the corrupt non-volatile read/write memory drive is unmounted (see abstract line 6), and the temporary volatile RAM drive is mounted (see abstract typically there) having the same drive letter as was allocated to the corrupt non-volatile read/write memory drive (see figure 3 block 324: drive letter is selected).

For Claim 25,

- The combination of Brundridge and VanRooven teaches the limitations of claim 1 for the reasons above.
- The claims recite essentially similar limitations as in claim 24, except that it is a method.

7. Claims 2 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brundridge (US 6,279,109 B1) in view of VanRooven (US 6,591,376 B1), and in further view of Wilks (US 2003/0074550 A1).

For Claim 2,

- The combination of Brundridge and VanRooven teaches the limitations of claim 1 for the reasons above.
- The combination of Brundridge and VanRooven does not explicitly teach: "non-volatile read/write memory is a flash memory" (although it is suggested).
- However, Wilks teaches non-volatile read/write memory is a flash memory (see figure 1 element 124 and column 6 lines 51-52).
- It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Brundridge and VanRooven to include non-volatile read/write memory is a flash memory, as taught by Wilks, because both Brundridge, VanRooven, and Wilks teach use of RAM disk drives during boot therefore they are analogous arts; and because flash is widely used as r/w-nv memory (see figure 1).

For Claim 13,

- The combination of Brundridge and VanRooven teaches the limitations of claim 12 for the reasons above.
- The claim recites essentially similar limitations as claim 2, except that it is a method.

8. Claims 6 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Brundridge (US 6,279,109 B1) in view of VanRooven (US 6,591,376 B1) and further in view of Maffezzoni (US 6,532,535 B1).

For Claim 6,

- The combination of Brundridge and VanRooven teaches the limitations of claim 1 for the reasons above.
- The combination of Brundridge and VanRooven does not explicitly teach device displays a user notification asking if reformatting should take place.
- However, Maffezzoni teaches device (column 3 line 40) displays a user notification asking (column 43 lines 43-44) if reformatting should take place (Figure 8 step 466, and Column 43 lines 44-45).
- It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Brundridge and VanRooven to include device displays a user notification asking if reformatting should take place as taught by Maffezzoni, because both Brundridge, VanRooven, and Maffezzoni teaches booting therefore they are analogues arts and because formatting deletes everything, so user should confirm (see Figure 8 step 466).

For Claim 17,

- The combination of Brundridge and VanRooven teaches the limitations of claim 12 for the reasons above.
- The claim recites essentially similar limitations as claim 6, except that it is a method.

9. Claims 7-9 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Brundridge (US 6,279,109 B1) in view of VanRooven (US 6,591,376 B1), and in further view of Duske (US 6,992,991 B2).

For Claim 7,

- The combination of Brundridge and VanRooven teaches the limitations of claim 1 for the reasons above.
- The combination of Brundridge and VanRooven does not explicitly teach device displays a user notification that the temporary RAM drive is in use.
- However, Duske teaches device displays a user notification that the temporary RAM drive is in use (Column 66 line 35, 53, column 17 lines 55-58, and column 26 lines 24-27).
- It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Brundridge and VanRooven to include "device displays a user notification that the temporary RAM drive is in use" as taught by Duske, because both Brundridge, VanRooven, and Duske teaches booting therefore they are analogous arts and because it is common to show resources used

to user (see Column 66 line 35, 53, column 17 lines 55-58, and column 26 lines 24-27).

For Claim 8,

- The combination of Brundridge and VanRooven teaches the limitations of claim 1 for the reasons above.
- The combination of Brundridge and VanRooven does not explicitly teach "device displays ... disabled".
- However, Duske teaches device displays user notification that save options are disabled (Column 28 line 52 and further in column 45 line 38).
- It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Brundridge and VanRooven to include "device displays ... disabled" as taught by Duske, because of the motivational reasons specified in claim 7.

For Claim 9,

- The combination of Brundridge and VanRooven teaches the limitations of claim 1 for the reasons above.
- The combination of Brundridge and VanRooven does not teach "device displays ... not available.
- However, Duske teaches device displays user notification that save options are not available (Column 28 line 52 and further in column 45 line 38).

- It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Brundridge and VanRooven to include "device displays ... not available" as taught by Duske, because of the motivational reasons specified in claim 7.

For Claims 18-20.

- The combination of Brundridge and VanRooven teaches the limitations of claim 12 for the reasons above.
- The claims recite essentially similar limitations as in claims 7-9 respectively, except that they are a method.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to YAIR LEIBOVICH whose telephone number is (571)270-3796. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6:30AM to 5:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Scott Badderman can be reached on (571)272-3644. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Scott T Baderman/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2114

Y.L.